9 CONTINUED:

ALBERT

Seriously They use this sauce--

5 PGS

TIFFANY

I mean seriously you want me to figure out the prosecution's case?

ALBERT

You're a lawyer. Trained to seek out the truth. Go for it.

As Albert leaves behind an awe-struck Tiffany...

INT. BELMONT VILLAGE SENIOR LIVING - GINA'S ROOM - DAY

10

Sadie and DR. GARY CONRAD enter gently. Clocking the presence of GINA PORTER - 60s, blank, withdrawn, sitting in a WINDOW SEAT - they stop in the doorway to get the attention of...

SADIE

Talia?

TALIA (40s) looks up from changing the sheets on Gina's bed.

SADIE (CONT'D)

It's Sadie again, and you remember

Dr. Conrad.

(off Talia's nod)

We're hoping to sit with Gina for a bit. How's she feeling today?

CARLY (O.S.)

Not. Well.

They turn to find Gina's daughter Carly entering with a GLASS OF WATER and a scowl on her face.

CARLY (CONT'D)

It's not a good day. She's tired. The last thing my mother needs is any more poking and prodding -

DR. CONRAD

It's really just to ask questions -

SADIE

It'll take less than thirty minutes.

Carly crosses to Gina, sets the water down, resolute.

CARLY

I'm sorry, it's a No.

SADIE

It's half an hour.

5 10

1/5

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

CARLY

Swear to God, I've known what "thirty minutes" means since I was five.

SADIE

Look, Carly, I know all these cognitive tests aren't fun for your mom, but I need this. And the court says I'm allowed to be here, so if you'll help me out ...

CARLY

She's not up to it, you'll have to come back. I mean, I can't be the only one here who's worried about my mom! Someone has to be on her side!

As Carly gets angry, Gina looks up, foggy, but present.

GINA

What's wrong, what's happening?

CARLY

The doctor wants to do some tests, Mom. You want to do more tests?

GINA

(alarmed)

Go away! No tests. Go away! Everyone get out! This is my house! Why are you staring at me, get out!

Talia goes to Gina, who's now clearly <u>agitated</u> and guides her back to her window seat, and slides a CD into the small CD-PLAYER on a nearby table.

TAL A

Mrs. P, we're gonna sit you down and put on the Joplin, just like ya like.

(to Sadie ard Conrad)
She loves Scott Joplin. Isn't that right?

Sure enough, at the mention of Joplin - as his music starts to play - Gina appears soothed by the sound, she settles in. Carly sidles up, takes Gina's hand, looks at Sadie and Conrad.

CARLY

I get you have a job to do...just don't do it today, okay? This's all been so hard. Please...just...go.

Frustrated, but with no other choice, Sadie and Dr. Conrad leave as the soothing sound of Joplin fills the room.





19

ACT TWO

INT. COURTROOM #1 - DAY 19

ADA Markes leads Carly through testimony. We join midstream.

CARLY

I opened the door, fully expecting to see my mother on the window seat having soup, getting her hair brushed, whatever. Instead, she's...God, she -

ADA MARKES

You need a minute?

CARLY

I'd rather just push through. She's in bed with Abe.

ADA MARKES

The Defendant?

CARLY

And they're...naked. Yes.

ADA MARKES

And...presumably they're neither having soup nor brushing her hair.

Snickers through the courtroom. Abe is furious, humiliated. Like he's gonna get up and walk out. Sadie puts his hand on his arm, calming him. He's surprised by the gesture. He pats her hand. He appreciates her compassion.

CARLY

They're...going at it.

ADA MARKES

Engaged in sexual intercourse?

CARLY

Yes. But Mom seemed - disoriented and...upset. Like she didn't like it. Like she was really scared, you know? And it's just ... it's hard to see your mom scared like that.

ADA MARKES

What did you do then?

CARLY

I was so shocked. I mean, he had promised the doctors he wouldn't do that anymore so it was very ... I was calling for the nurses and Abe (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

CARLY (CONT'D)

was yelling at me and mom was screaming and ...it was just very chaotic.

ADA Markes lets that visual sit a moment. Turns to Sadie.

ADA MARKES

Your witness.

Abe scrawls a NOTE to Sadie - we go C.U. on "take her apart!" Sadie pushes it away. She stands.

SADIE

Is it possible your mother was disoriented and upset because you surprised her and started screaming for help?

CARLY

I know my mother. I know what was upsetting her.

Sadie changes tack.

SADIE

You visited your mom pretty often, didn't you?

CARLY

Every week. Never missed one. I love my mother with all my heart.

SADIE

Would it surprise you to learn that Judge Porter visited your mother daily?

CARLY

No. I know he visited more than me or Evie. We have jobs.

SADIE

I get it, I do, that makes sense. But would you say it also makes sense that Abe visited your mother every day because he loves her with all his heart?

ADA MARKES

Objection, is the defense seriously asking the witness to see into the defendant's heart?

JUDGE

Sustained.

19

19

CONTINUED: (2) 19

CARLY

It's not his heart I'm concerned about him loving her with.

SADIE

I withdraw the question. Just one more thing. Has your mother mentioned Abe in the past 4 months?

CARLY

Yes.

SADIE

Has she said she misses him?

CARLY

She says a lot of things. She says she just talked to my father and he died twenty years ago.

SADIE

Carly, has she told you she misses Abe?

Carly hesitates. Then, uncomfortably --

CARLY

Yes.

SADIE

That's all.

Off Abe, wiping a tear out of the corner of his eye.

INT. HOSPITAL - PATIENT ROOM - DAY 20

10-year-old RENEE LOPEZ lies in a hospital bea, nervous.
Her visibly anxious parents, REBECCA and Topb sit next to her. Billy stands at the foot of the bed, a reassuring presence. He picks up a nearly solved Rubik's Cube and works on it as he talks:

BILLY

(to Renee)
Remember the Pirst time you came to
the hospital? You blew me away with
how fast you could solve one of these. Your fingers just flew. It seemed impossible to me, but then you slowed down, showed me the tricks, the patterns that I needed to unlock it.

Renee gives him a shy smile and nod.

(CONTINUED)